in India. In December 1996, the Central India Coal Company Ltd. informed the Ministry of Coal that Ispat Urja Ltd. is a company registered in Mauritius. The Show Cause notice pointed out that this action of M/s. Central India Coal Company Ltd. was in violation of the notification and consequently, the show cause notice was issued. In reply thereto M/s. Ispat Urja Ltd. pointed out that there would not be any violation of the notification and consequently there would be no cause of action.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) After careful examination, the Government issued a revised notification on 11-9-98, permitting M/s. IUL to be a company registered in Mauritius. Consequently, action on the show cause notice abated.

Decision to close down certain mines of ECL

312. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to close down 64 mines in six identified areas of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL).

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) if not, the stand of Government nominee in the ECL Board meeting held on 22nd October, 1998?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) of the question.

(c) ECL Board in which the Government of India is represented through its nominee Director has taken a decision to close 64 mines in six areas of ECL.

Appointment of International Mining Consultants in ECL

313. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICICI is in the process of appointing international mining Consultants to explore technical improvements to enhance productivity in ECL mines with difficult working conditions, categorised as Group 4 in its study report on ECL; and

(b) if so, the status of the same?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir. ICICI has been commissioned by Coal India Limited (CIL) to conduct this study. ICICI has in turn appointed M/s. Montan Consultancy, GMBH, Germany for the study.

(b) M/s. Montan Consultancy commenced the study and it is likely to be completed by the end of December, 1998.

Present status of ECL

314. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) still stands referred to BIFR under the SICA 1985;

(b) if so, the operating agency appointed by BIFR for revival of ECL; and

(c) if not, present status *vis-a-vis* BIFR.

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) ECL made a reference to the BIFR under Section 15 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision)